Wonderland Scanning Group

三國群英傳

火鳳燎原

The Ravages of Time

15

陳某

東立
NT-80

火鳳 前文提要

攻滅陽曹操兵敗江 敵戰神殘兵陳

曹操滿以為快要重奪濮陽之際，慘中陳宮的誘敵之計，被呂布的伏兵圍剿。

呂布的突然出現，更令曹營眾將的士氣全面崩潰。

無敵戰神大開殺戒，目標直指曹操。

在曹操的將領一一敗陣之時，殘兵卻突然出現保護曹操。

這支不敗的暗殺部隊，再次與呂布決一生死，在三人合璧之下，呂布再嚐敗陣。

同時，城外的陳宮遇上了司馬懿，究竟陳宮的下場會否與呂布一樣？

兵殘

敗如山倒

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AT THE OUTER REGIONS NEAR PUYANG, ON THE DAY BEFORE CAO CAO'S ADVANCEMENT TO PUYANG.

NORTH CITY

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN? IS THAT FOR CAO CAO... OR FOR CHEN GONG?

NO... NO, I JUST CAME TO JOIN THE PUYANG CAMPAIGN, I...

THEN... THEN WHY'RE YOU HERE?

TO HELP YOU, OF COURSE.

LU BU HAS A LOT OF INFLUENCE, AND NOW THAT PUYANG IS TAKEN, CAO CAO IS IN BIG TROUBLE.

GENERAL GUO MUST HAVE A REASON TO DEPLOY TROOPS HERE. WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE, SO LET'S BE FRANK.

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CHAPTER 118 ZHANG LIANG AND WOLFNECK

RIGHT NOW CAO CAO IS LOSING BY A LANDSLIDE, AND A LOT OF YANZHOU'S PEOPLE SUPPORT LU BU. YUZHOU'S TOO, RIGHT?

HELP ME? SO YOU THINK I WANT...

INSPECTOR OF YUZHOU

GUO GONG

REPORT!

YOU THINK I WILL TRY TO SAVE MYSELF AND JOIN LU BU?

RUNAN REGION'S YELLOW TURBANS HAVE JOINED LU BU'S ARMY.

THIS SECRET MESSAGE MUST BE LU BU'S INVITATION.

HE... HE'S INVITING ME...

TEAR... BUT DIDN'T YOU AGREE THAT I SHOULD FIGHT AGAINST CAO CAO...

TEAR IT UP.

I'M HERE... TO HELP YOU ANALYZE THE SITUATION.

COUNTLESS ENEMIES CAUSE YANZHOU'S ALLEGIANCE TO KEEP CHANGING. HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM DONG ZHUO VERSUS THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE?

ANALYZE WHAT? RIGHT NOW I'M FACING WARLORDS FROM EVERY DIRECTION.

OF COURSE IT'S DIFFERENT, THEY HAD MUCH MORE FORCES THEN, BUT THEY STILL FAILED.

AND THEN ...

ZHANG MIAO WILL PRESERVE HIS FORCES IN CHENLIU, XUZHOU IS A MESS, TIAN KAI AND KONG RONG WILL JUST SPECTATE.

AND NOW LU BU'S FORCE IS SCARTTERED, YELLOW TURBAN ARMY IS NOTHING WITHOUT ZHANG JIAO...

XUN YU

THERE'RE THE AGITATING AND MALICIOUS BUSINESSMEN.

YOUNG MISTER SIMA,

PA-

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

WOLF-NECK!? THIS MAN...

THE PLEA-SURE'S ALL MINE.

SO IT'S TRUE THAT THE EIGHT GENIUSES KNOW THE WORLD'S EVENTS WITHOUT LEAVING THE HOUSE.

I'M ANGRY THAT I DIDN'T GET TO MEET MISTER SIMA AT XUZHOU.

YOUNG MASTER HASN'T GIVEN ME THE ORDER.

THEN WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?

AM I RIGHT? LEADER OF THE HANDI-CAPPED WARRIORS.

OR MAYBE HE DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO DEAL WITH ME.

HOO.

MISTER XUN YU, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

I CAN FORGIVE YOUR MISCONDUCTS, AND KEEP THEM SECRET.

BECAUSE I STILL HAVE SOME VALUE?

DON'T GET SMART WITH ME, BECAUSE YOU REALLY HAVE NO CHOICE.

SINCE YOU'RE SO GOOD AT CALCULATION, YOU MUST KNOW THAT I'M HERE FOR GENERAL GUO AND YOU.

SO IF LORD CAO LOSES, YOU THINK THE SIMA CLAN CAN SURVIVE IN YANZHOU?

THE SIMA CLAN ONCE WORKED WITH THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS TO OPPOSE LU BU,

I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT THE XUZHOU CAMPAIGN FORCED MY HAND.

I HOPE TO INVEST IN LORD CAO CAO'S AFFAIRS AND BECOME HIS STRONG SUPPORTER.

SINCE THE SIMA CLAN IS FILTHY RICH, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD DO?

BUT IT'S ALL ABOUT "MONEY", ISN'T IT?

AS AN ADVISOR FOR LORD CAO, YOU ALMOST LET HIM DIE; HOW WILL YOU BE PUNISHED?

A GOOD SUGGESTION; I'LL DROP SOME CHARGES. BUT... YOU'RE NOT OFF THE HOOK YET.

AS A TRUE BUSINE-SSMAN, YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO HAGGLE.

I'M NOT RECKLESS LIKE GUO JIA, BUT I KNOW HIS TRICKS.

I HEARD THAT THE SIMA CLAN MAKES A LOT OF MONEY BUILDING CITIES.

DO YOU WANT TO SAY THAT YOUR HAND WAS FORCED AS WELL?

AND YOU KNOW THE INS AND OUTS OF THESE CITIES, CORRECT?

NO WONDER THE SIMA CLAN IS AT THE TOP OF THIS POPULAR MARKET.

I CAN BE ANYWHERE YOU WANT ME TO BE.

JUST SO YOU CAN MAKE A SURPRISING MOVE WHEN LU BU DROPS HIS GUARD?

SO YOU MEAN YOU WOULD PURPOSELY PUT CAO CAO IN DANGER,

OR I SHOULD SAY THAT I DIDN'T EXPECT GUO JIA TO COLLAPSE;

LOSING TO SOMEONE WHO'S GOOD AT CALCU-LATION, EVEN.

YOU MEAN... I SHOULD GET IN THE CITY AHEAD OF TIME AND PROTECT LORD CAO?

I ONLY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A MARVELOUS RECORD AT RESCUE WORK.

THEN PLEASE PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR ME LATER, MISTER XUN.

THEN WHAT'S MISTER XUN'S PLAN?

THE HANDI-CAPPED WARRIORS SHOULD BE IN THE CITY, SAVING MY LORD AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT.

I HOPE GENERAL GUO AND MISTER SIMA WILL SETUP AMBUSH IN THE FORESTS AROUND THE OUTSKIRTS; THE TARGET IS CHEN GONG.

OUR ARMY IS SHORT IN NUMBER, SO WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, GENERAL GUO GONG.

ONE, YOU REALLY HAVE NO CHOICE.

DECEP-TIONS AFTER DECEPTIONS, TO MAKE LU BU FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK ...

TWO,

THOUGH CHEN GONG ... MIGHT BE A BIT DIFFICULT FOR ME.

HA

HA

HA!

I HEARD SOMEONE EVEN DEFEATED THAT DEMON GUO JIA.

SHA~

SO HOW IS CHEN GONG A BIG DEAL?

HAHA HAHA, YOU'VE MET YOUR MATCH.

WHAT'RE YOU LAUGHING AT? DON'T FORGET YOU'RE...

YOU DO REALIZE... THAT I WILL WATCH YOUR PERFORMANCE, AND DECIDE WHETHER TO HELP YOU LATER.

THREE,

IF YOU READ THIS, YOU WILL KNOW MY NEXT STEP.

FOUR, THANK YOU FOR STOPPING MY LORD'S CRIMES AT XUZHOU.

MISTER SIMA, HE MEANS...

PA!

DARKNESS ALWAYS PRECEEDS THE LIGHT OF DAWN.

WHO SAYS ONLY CROUCHING DRAGON AND FLEDGLING PHOENIX OF THE EIGHT GENIUSES ARE AMAZING?

ACTUALLY... ANY ONE OF THEM IS FRIGHTENING ENOUGH!

ZHANG LIANG ONCE HELPED LIU BANG ESTABLISH THE EMPIRE OF HAN; BUT WHEN THE WORK IS DONE, HE ONLY WANTED TO RETIRE

WOLFNECK - A WOLF CAN TURN ITS HEAD NEAR 180 DEGREES, SO IT CAN BITE ANYTHING IN THE FRONT, OR FROM THE BACK.

[狼顧之相] "WITH A WOLF'S NECK"

FROM WHAT I LEARNED, THE IMAGERY OF 狼顧 REFERS TO A WOLF TURNING ITS HEAD WITHOUT TURNING THE BODY. THIS ABILITY ALLOWS THE WOLF TO EITHER BITE AN ENEMY IN FRONT OF IT OR BEHIND IT. VARIOUS CHARACTERS (XUN YU BEING ONE) BELIEVE THAT SIMA YI HAS THIS "FANTASTIC" FEATURE. PHYSICALLY, HE SURVIVED A NECK-TWIST-MURDER (BY SERVANTS OF 山无陵 SHAN WU LING) BECAUSE OF IT, WHICH I DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL LATER (THANK GOD, OR ELSE I'D BE REALLY UPSET ABOUT THIS BLATANT "BUG", THOUGH I'M STILL A LITTLE IFFY ABOUT THE "SOLUTION"). STRATEGICALLY, THIS PHRASE COMPLIMENTS HIS SKILLS TO ATTACK AND DEFEND HIS POSITION WELL, IF NOT DO BOTH AT THE SAME TIME. IT ALSO IMPLIES THAT HE CAN AND WILL TURN AGAINST ANYONE TO SAVE THE SIMA FAMILY

OUTSIDE OF PUYANG, ENDLESS BATTLECRIES ARE HEARD EVERYWHERE.

INFANTRY, ATTACK FROM THE BACK!

XIAHOU YUAN

DEFENDERS, GO FORWARD!

ZANG BA

FIRST CAMP ON THE LEFT!

SECOND CAMP ON THE RIGHT!

FORMATION! GO!

CHAPTER 119 GOOD TEACHER AND BENEFICIAL FRIEND

REPORT! OUR MAIN ARMY IS MOVING, ACCOMPANIED BY THE YELLOW TURBAN ARMY FROM RUNAN, WAITING FOR ADVISOR CHEN GONG'S COMMAND!

RUMORS OF CAO CAO'S DEATH HAVE BEEN SPREAD TO JUAN AND CHANG REGIONS. RESULTS WILL SHOW IN THREE DAYS!

THAT CAO CAO'S REMAINING FORCE CAN HOLD OUT FOR THIS LONG!

GAO SHUN

XIAHOU YUAN! DISMOUNT AND SURRENDER!

EVERYTHING'S GOING WELL, THOUGH IT'S UNEXPECTED...

BATTLE HORN SFX

呜呜~WU~

呜呜~WU~

BATTLE HORN? SO GAO SHUN'S COMING TOO!

龙吟~LONG~

THIRD CAMP, ATTACK UP FRONT! FOURTH CAMP, COME WITH ME!

THE AMBUSHER IS LEADING THE VANGUARDS PERSONALLY. WE WILL WIN THIS FOR SURE. EVERYBODY ATTACK!

GENERAL XIAHOU, THE ENEMY IS ATTACKING FROM THE SOUTH!

INSIDE THE CITY

THE ENEMY NUMBER IS TOO HIGH, SEND WORD, RETREAT FOR FIVE LI!

OH NO! IT'S THE AMBUSHER. THIS GUY WILL HURT OUR TROOP MORALE ...

YU JIN

CAO HONG! MIAO CAI CANNOT BEAT GAO SHUN AND IS RETREA-TING!

HAN HAO

CAO HONG! I CAN'T HOLD MY POSITION MUCH LONGER, THINK OF SOMETHING!

CAO HONG

ARE YOU DEAF? HE'S RETREATING WE HAVE NO REINFORCEMENT!

YU JIN, HOLD ON TO THE HIGHEST STATION POINT, THEN SIGNAL MIAO CAI!

GROUND POSITION? LOST...

CAO HONG! GROUND... GROUND POSITION IS LOST TOO!

DIAN WEI ...

DIAN WEI, WHAT'RE YOU STANDING THERE FOR? RUSH UP HERE!

WHERE IS MY LORD?

SURRENDER!!

SURRENDER!

CAO CAO IS DEAD, GENERAL DIAN YOU HAVE NO WAY OUT, JUST SURRENDER!

DIAN WEI! DEATH OVER HUMILI-ATION!

PENG~

DANG~

DIAN WEI...!?

HEH, EVEN CAO CAO'S STRONGEST WARRIOR IS LIKE A SHEEP UNDER THE HALBERD OF THE GOD OF WAR.

SMART BIRDS WOULD CHOOSE THE TREE THEY REST ON; GENERAL DIAN IS A FINE EXAMPLE FOR THE CAO ARMY!

CAO CAO IS DEAD! SURRENDER!

CAO CAO IS DEAD!

ONE MORE THING, THERE'RE NO MORE OF CAO CAO'S TROOPS INSIDE THE CITY!

PA.

UNDER-STOOD.

SURRENDER!

SURRENDER!

SURRENDER!

HAHAHA! DIAN WEI SURRENDERED! YOU GUYS SHOULD TOO!

MY LORD IS CALLING ME.

YES. PLAN WEI KNOWS WHAT TO DO.

BUT... WHERE IS MY WEAPON?

THE ENEMY IS POWERFUL; I NEED ONE WEAPON FOR EVERY ONE OF THEIR GENER-ALS.

HE... HE STOOD UP AGAIN!

WEAPON? I HAVE...

DIAN WEI...

GONE MAD?

TO KILL TEN... I NEED TEN WEAPONS!

SHA

SO DO WE!

CHA~

CHA~

CHA~

CHA~

GAH~

THANKS!

I...

PA~

I FOUND THE WEAPONS!

OUTSIDE OF THE CITY FOREST

CHEN GONG

I BET GUO GONG IS WITH THEM, AND THERE'S ALSO... A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF HIS.

GIVE HIM A WARNING!

THEY'RE WALKING VERY SLOWLY; A TRICK?

THOSE WHO SURRENDER MUST FIRST WEIGHT THEIR GAIN, BUT IT SEEMS THAT DISAGREEMENT STILL EXISTS ON THEIR SIDE.

DIDN'T EVEN SEE THE BLADE LEAVE THE SHEATH...

YOU'RE SAYING... THAT'S THE EXTINCT QIN-WARRIOR BLADE STYLE?

NICE MOVE! GUO GONG'S MESSENGER KNOWS A THING OR TWO!

THE FIRST EMPORER ONCE SENT XU FU OUT TO SEA TO FIND MAGICAL HERBS, AND MANY FAMOUS GENERALS WENT WITH HIM.

*"MAGICAL HERBS" ~ "AMBROSIA"

I AM GLAD TO SEE THEIR DESCENDENTS STILL ALIVE, AND I ALSO REALIZED THAT YOU ARE FARSIGHTED.

BUT THEIR SHIPS NEVER RETURNED, THUS THEIR BLADE STYLE WAS LOST; UPON SEEING IT TODAY,

THE OPPOR-TUNISTS OF THE SIMA CLAN.

XUZHOU IS NEAR THE SEA, AND THE ONLY PEOPLE CAPABLE OF DOING OVERSEAS BUSINESS ARE...

HAHAHA! WHAT'S THIS BOY TALKING ABOUT?

HE MUST BE SO SCARED HE'S SAYING THINGS BACKWARDS.

THE SIMA CLAN, REPRESENTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AND GENERAL GUO OF YUZHOU,

REQUESTS FOR YOUR SURRENDER, ADVISOR *CHEN GONG.*

WHAT DOES THE ADVISOR TEAM THINK?

THEY CAN'T THINK BEYOND ADVISOR CHEN'S THREE-HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX ROUNDS, RIGHT?

BUT, IF EVEN THE SIMA FAMILY HAS SURRENDERED, ADVISOR CHEN GONG MUST HAVE A RESPONSE.

ADVISORS, I CALLED YOU ALL HERE FOR THIS, PLEASE CONTINUE CALCULATING.

BESIDES CALCULATING THE ENEMY'S NEXT STEP, AN ADVISOR MUST ALSO THINK LIKE A BUSINESSMAN.

WE CAN EVEN USE XUZHOU'S SEALINE TO EXPAND OUR INFLUENCES TO OTHER CULTURES.

ALLOW ME. ROUND THREE-HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN! DEFEAT CAO CAO AND XUZHOU WILL SOON BE OURS; THE FIRST STEP TO BUILDING THE EMPIRE!

*"NORTHWARD TO LIAODONG (NEAR KOREA PENNINSULA," SOUTHWARD TO SOUTH SEA"

RIGHT, BEING MASTER CHEN'S COLLEAGUES, WE WILL SOON BE AS SMART AS THE EIGHT GENIUSES!

MASTER CHEN WILL SHARE HIS KNOWLEDGE EVEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WE'RE ALWAYS LEARNING!

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ALL HAVE TAKEN THE SECOND STEP TOWARDS THINKING LIKE A GENIUS.

LU BU IS POWERFUL BECAUSE HE'S BEEN IN MANY BATTLES; POWERFUL ADVISORS ALSO LEARNED TO RESPOND TO SUDDEN CHANGES; SAME IDEA.

UNFORTU-
NATELY
...
ALSO THE
FIRST STEP
INTO THE
ENEMY'S
TRAP.

PHH!

HA

HA!

HA

HA

HA!

MASTER CHEN GONG, I HAVE A QUESTION.

HAI!

HOLD IT, THEY'RE NOT LAUGHING AT YOU.

I LOVE TEACHING THE TALENTED!

PAH

DON'T REGRET IT.

ALL BEINGS OF THE EARTH FOLLOW THE RULES OF LIFE ONE CAN'T OPPOSE HEAVEN'S WILL.

MOUNTAIN FIRE DESTROYS EXCESS ANCIENT TREES,

PAVING THE WAY FOR SPROUTS TO GROW.

TURMOILS OF WAR PURIFY THE WORLD, FOR IT IS THE WILL OF HEAVEN. MEN ARE BEINGS OF THIS EARTH, SO THEY FOLLOW THE SAME RULES. ONE CAN'T OPPOSE HEAVEN'S WILL.

FOR A HEGEMON TO MATURE, HE MUST FIRST FACE ADVERSITY. HE MUST PREPARE FOR THE NEXT STEP.

STARVATION REMOVES NEEDLESS COMPETITORS,

PROVIDING DESCENDENTS WITH A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT

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CHAPTER 120 FROM WASTE TO WORTHY

I...
SEE THE
TRUTH
BEHIND
THE
CHAOS.

JUANCHENG

STOP!

PUT MORE STRENGTH INTO IT, COME AT ME LIKE I'M YOUR ENEMY!

YES, WE'RE FACING ENEMIES FROM ALL SIDES, AND GENERAL CAO REN NOT ONLY HOLDS FIRM AGAINST THE CHAOS, HE'S EVEN HELPING OUR LORD BUILDING UP FORCES...

GENERAL, THEY'RE ONLY ROOKIES, WHY SO...

RIGHT NOW WE'RE VULNERABLE, AND THE ENEMY WILL PRAY ON OUR NEGLIGENCE!

CAO CAO'S YOUNGER [CLAN] BROTHER

CAO REN

TEAM FOUR CAPTAIN, TELL YOUR MEN TO GET SERIOUS!

PA~

PA~

PA~

PA~

DEFINITELY A FARSIGHTED LEADER.

GUO JIA

KNOW THIS, HOME CANNOT BE LOST, BECAUSE THE EMPIRE IS IN SIGHT!

DEFENDING THE REAR MAKES ME A VITAL SUPPORT FOR MY BROTHER, SO I MUST DO MY BEST.

BULLSHIT, I NEVER BELIEVE THAT MY LORD IS DEAD!

KEH!

THEN, SUPPOSE THE RUMOR IS TRUE... GENERAL IS OUR LORD'S BROTHER, ALSO AN IMPORTANT FIGURE, EVER THOUGHT ABOUT...

RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT TO KILL AN INCITER LIKE YOU!

EXCE-LLENT.

THEN... HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMOR...

OUR LORD'S FIRST CONCERN IS RESOLVED.

ANY NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE?

WHAT NONSENSE, ADVISOR YOU MUST BE REALLY ILL!

EXCE-LLENT.

YES... ADVISOR XUN YU HAS ASKED THE XIAHOU FAMILY TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE WEST CITY TO PUYANG.

I HEARD THAT MANY FROM OUR SIDE SURRENDERED, THEN... HOW'S THE BUNCH AT PUYANG?

IT'S SAID THAT THE SITUATION IS DIRE, BUT NONE OF THE GENERALS SURRENDERED.

OUR LORD'S MOST-VALUED SUBORDINATES DID NOT FAIL HIM, SO EVEN THE THIRD CONCERN IS RESOLVED.

YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO TALK BLACK INTO WHITE; NOW I'M MORE RELAXED AS WELL.

THE BAD LEAVES, AND THE GOOD REMA-INS.

THE NUMBER TWO GENERAL XIAHOU DUN AND THE NUMBER TWO ADVISOR WORK WELL TOGETHER,

ALL'S WELL DESPITE MY ABSENCE, SO OUR LORD'S SECOND CONCERN IS RESOLVED TOO.

YOU SEE, IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE.

ENOUGH! MY LORD IS A MIGHTY HEGEMON, HOW CAN HE LOSE SO EASILY?

ONE CAN SEE THESE WORTHY MEN GROW, EXCEPT OUR LORD IS...

IT'S A BIG WORLD, WHY IS OUR LORD THE ONLY HEGEMON ...

ALSO, FOR THE RUMOR-MONGERS,

GIBBERISH! SOMEBODY! ESCORT THE ADVISOR BACK TO HIS ROOM TO REST!

ADVISOR CHENG IS KNOWLEDGABLE AND FLEXIBLE IN HIS GOVERNING, THUS RUMORS WON'T TAKE EFFECT.

DON'T YOU WORRY; IT'S MY JOB.

HAVING A KEEN OBSERVER AT A TIME OF CRISIS, SO IT SEEMS ALL OF OUR LORD'S CONCERNS ARE RESOLVED.

CHENG YU

I'M HAPPY TO KILL THEM.

AND THE WISE-MAN...

ALL IN ALL, THE GENERALS CAN FIGHT, AND MY SECOND SHIGE CAN MANAGE THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

*SHIGE = MALE UPPERCLASSMAN

PA!

SERVANT, MAKE SURE HE GETS A GOOD REST.

EVERYTHING'S READY, EXCEPT FOR TWO OUTSIDERS. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE FIRST GIVES IN.

AS FOR THE SECOND... WE'D HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF WEALTH IF HE COMES OVER TO OUR SIDE...

AIYA... YA...

IDIOT! DID YOU TAKE THE CAPTAIN'S ORDER LITERALLY?

SI... SIR, I... I'M JUST...

I KNOW THAT, BUT BATTLEFIELDS NEED SOLDIERS; THOUGH THIS TRAINING MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT.

GENERAL CAO REN, YOU SHOULDN'T RUSH. ONE EXTREMITY MIGHT LEAD TO ANOTHER!

TO MAKE SOLDIERS MATURE, WHY NOT SEND THEM STRAIGHT INTO BATTLE?

LU BU IS POWERFUL, BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN IN MANY BATTLES.

WIN A LITTLE, LOSE A LITTLE, BETTER TO LEARN FROM MISTAKES NOW, THEN LATER WHEN...

OUR ARMY MIGHT THEN SUFFER A TOTAL DEFEAT.

OUR SIDE HAS MANY TALENTS, BUT NOT ENOUGH EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH ADVERSITY.

YOU MEAN YOU LOST AT XUZHOU'S ON PURPOSE?

SON OF A BITCH!

WE'VE ONLY FOUGHT SMALL BATTLES, BUT IF DISASTER STRIKES...

I LOST TO THEM FAIR AND SQUARE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

BECAUSE FOR YANZHOU'S CRISIS, OUR LORD'S GOAL WAS...

TO LOSE! TO CREATE CHAOS!

MORE CHAOS,

AN ABLE MINISTER IN PEACE TIMES, AN ANTI-HERO IN WAR TIMES.

MY MASTER ONCE SAID THIS ABOUT OUR LORD ...

ONLY MEANS IT'S DESTINY'S CALLING!

THINK ABOUT IT, WHY WOULD OUR LORD CARELESSLY USE ALL OF HIS FORCES, JUST FOR A MEASLY XUZHOU?

WHAT WAS HE DOING? AND WHAT HAVE YOU ALL BEEN DOING FOR HIM?

YES, HE'S WORRIED ABOUT BLIND SUPPORTERS, THOSE WHO DO NOT SPEAK UP WHEN THE LORD IS CAUGHT IN THE MOMENT. WHERE WERE YOUR BRAINS?

LET THE SENSIBLE LORDS LOOK DOWN ON THE SENSELESS! LET THE COMPETITORS UNDERESTIMATE THE CLUMSY!

LET HELPLESSNESS EXPOSE FRIENDS AND FOE! WHY WOULD A HEGEMON SHOW HIS VULNERABILITY?

WHY DID HE HIT ROCK BOTTOM FROM SUCH HEIGHTS?

LIVES AND DIGNITY ARE BEING PUT TO THE GRINDSTONE THAT IS AN UNDEFEATABLE EVIL MAN!

IT'S FOR TRAINING!

THERE IS A SHALLOW SAYING, "PUT ONESELF IN A DEADLY PERIL AND ONE WILL SURVIVE."

THE XUZHOU EXCURSION WASN'T FOR THE TERRITORY, BUT FOR A TRAINING GROUND!

TO MAKE HIS MEN HAVE THEIR OWN WILL AND MINDS!

FIGHT BATTLES AS PROOF OF LEADERSHIP!

DUN.

BUT HOW TO SURVIVE? WITH REAL EXPERIENCE! THE CLASSIC OF RITES SAYS,

WATCH OUT.

A DULL STONE CAN BE MADE WORTHY!

WHAT?

A MAN, YOUR VISION IS EVEN BETTER THAN MINE!

NO, SOMEONE ALREADY TOLD ME.

YOU... YOU MEAN...

STOP LOOKING, THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS ARE LONG GONE.

ONCE WE'RE OUT, LET GUO JIA KNOW THAT EVERYTHING'S FINE. AND TELL HIM...

YOU THINK I WOULD DEPEND ON A GROUP OF STRANGERS TO PROTECT ME AGAINST LU BU?

A MAN, WHAT-IN-THE-WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

HENEI HAS TALENT AS WELL AS RICHES.

WEALTH SHOULD BE USED.

TALENTS SHOULD BE USED.

SO... ALL THIS TIME YOU'VE BEEN OBSERVING THE SIMA CLAN...

TALENT? WEALTH?

NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO TELL FRIENDS FROM FOE, AND I LIKE TO ACT DUMB TO OBSERVE THEM.

YOU KNOW, TODAY'S TRAINING WILL PREPARE THE SOLDIERS FOR DISASTERS IN THE FUTURE. ALSO...

I OWE SIMA FANG A FAVOR, NOW I JUST USED A LITTLE TRICK AND GOT THE SIMA CLAN'S SUPPORT. ONCE THEY FALL MY WAY, THE OTHER BUSINESS CLANS WILL COME TOO.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL I'M HAPPY ABOUT. EVERY ONE OF MY CONCERNS... HAVE GONE UP IN SMOKE.

BEING AFRAID OF DEATH IS ACTUALLY BEING UNAFRAID OF DEATH.

TODAY IS FULL OF SURPRISES. LU BU ALMOST DIED, AND I REALIZED SOMETHING AS I WAS RUNNING FOR MY LIFE...

THE TRAINING IS COMPLETE

THE BRIGHT SUN SHINES ABOVE.

TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD, ONE MUST HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION!

YANZHOU'S LOSS IS A PREPARATION FOR A MUCH URGENT CRISIS!

THAT ENEMY IS EXTREMELY POWERFUL, IN ARMY SIZE, FUNDING, EVERYTHING!

IF WE WIN AGAINST LU BU AT THIS POINT, THEN THIS CRISIS WILL BE HERE IMMEDIATELY. BUT NOW, HE WILL LOWER HIS GUARD...

WATCH ME TIP THE SCALE AT GUANDU!

AND THEN, THE FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH ROUND,

BATTLE OF GUANDU.

SIMA YI, I'LL MAKE YOU PAY IF YOU'RE LYING!

HA

HA

HA

HA

...

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EDITS: KL SHODAN

CHAPTER 121 THE FOOLISH MASTERMIND

YOU MEAN... CAO CAO WILL GO AFTER YUAN SHAO AFTER HE DEFEATS LU BU?

YUAN SHAO IS CURRENTLY MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN DONG ZHUO USED TO BE, I'M AFRAID...

HAHAHAHA, EVEN MORE FARFETCHED, THIS BOY IS FUNNY!

IN THIS WORLD, THERE'RE ALWAYS SOME KNOW-IT-ALLS WHO WOULD MAKE UNREALISTIC CLAIMS.

SIR, NO WEAPON FOUND.

THE FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH ROUND, INVASION OF WUWAN.

ADVISORS PLEASE REMEMBER THIS,

BE DOWN-TO-EARTH.

THEY SOUND NICE, BUT...

MASTER CHEN, WANT TO HEAR MORE?

WHAT IF... CAO CAO IS STILL ALIVE?

HAHAHAHA, OF COURSE CAO CAO'S NOT DEAD, IN, INFACT...

HE'S BEEN REINCARNATED AS THE SON OF THE EMPEROR, AND NOW NEARLY A PRINCE!

A BIT LATE, BUT DEFINITELY A GOOD THING.

REPORT! RUNAN'S YELLOW TURBANS HAVE ARRIVED, THEY'RE NOW SURROUNDING THE FOREST.

MASTER CHEN BELIEVES THAT THEY'VE JUST DEFEATED XUN YU'S ARMY?

CAO. CAO. IS. DEAD.

BECAUSE OF YOUR STALLING, YOU'VE GIVEN GUO GONG TIME TO THINK THINGS THROUGH.

CORRECT, AND I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY TALENTED FOR A SPEAKER OF THE SIMA CLAN.

MAKE WAY!

GO TELL GUO GONG, IF HE SURRENDERS, I CAN PROMISE ANYTHING.

THIS FIRE WON'T WAIT, AND NEITHER WILL MY GENEROSITY.

UNDER-STOOD.

AND TAKE BACK YOUR FLAG! A NOBLE COMMANDER DOES NOT HUMILIATE HIS ENEMY.

AS FOR THE SIMA CLAN, TELL THE DECISION-MAKER TO SPEAK TO ME PERSONALLY.

NOT A COMMANDER FLAG?

THAT IS... OUR ANSWER!

ONE, GENERAL GUO GONG WILL NEVER SURRENDER.

TWO, THE SIMA CLAN WILL SUPPORT CAO CAO!

NO, MASTER CHEN GONG, THAT'S MY GIFT TO YOU.

THIS...
THIS
BOY IS...

THIS...
IS THE
DECISION-
MAKER'S
DECISION!

SO WHY DID HE EVEN COME OUT HERE?

WHO... WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?

IS THIS BOY BLUFFING?

OR... WAS HE STALLING FOR REAL?

ﾘｭｳ～

CHA~

CHA~

CHA~

CHA~

HE WAS STALLING!?

AH~

AH~

AH~

IS AIMING AT US! IS IT A MISTAKE?

ADVISOR CHEN, OUR ARMY IN THE BACK...

THE ARMY BEHIND US... IS RUNAN'S YELLOW TURBANS.

I'M SUDDENLY RECALLING SOMETHING.

A FEW YEARS AGO THE WARLORDS OF THE GUANDONG COALITION WERE ALL DEFEATED.

ONLY ONE MAN, WHEN HE LOST.

...

HIS ARMY WAS STILL GROWING IN SIZE,

AND IN THAT YEAR...

HEAVEN
IS
DEAD
YET

PENG~

CAO CAO TOOK IN A HUNDRED-THOUSAND YELLOW TURBAN SOLDIERS.

THERE WAS A LEADER AMONG THEM.

AFTER THEY WENT BACK TO RUNAN, THEY SECRETLY BEGAN TO REGROUP.

AND THE ONE WHO MADE IT HAPPEN WAS...

SO IT SEEMS... IT WAS ALL FOR TODAY!

YEARS OF RESER-VATION, ONLY FOR THIS MOMENT.

SILENT FOR YEARS, WITHOUT ANY GLORY... XUN YU THE SECOND!

EVEN WHEN DONG ZHUO HELD THE MOST INFLUENCE, HE WAS ASSASINATED.

EVEN WHEN, YUAN SHAO FELL INTO THE TRAP AT LUOYANG, HE WAS SAVED.

NOW, AS I RELISH IN THE ENEMY'S STRATEGY, MY BRAIN IS STARTING TO CALCULATE AGAIN...

A GOOD TEACHER CAN RECOGNIZE BAD HABITS WHEN HE'S TEACHING; A HEGEMON CAN TELL FRIENDS FROM FOE WHEN HE'S LOSING...

THEN IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE, THAT CAO CAO'S DAY ISN'T OVER JUST YET.

CAO CAO WAS ONLY FOOLING HIS MEN, FOR HE KNEW HE WOULD WIN, THEN...

BUT, WHEN I REALIZED THE TRUTH BEHIND THE PUYANG CAMPAIGN...

THE MORE I CALCULATE, THE MORE FRIGHTENING THE OUTLOOK; JUST LIKE THAT BOY PREDICTED... BUT THAT'S BESIDES THE POINT.

ADVISORS, CHEN GONG IS ASHAMED TO BE THE TEACHER, NOW LET'S TRY TO FIGURE OUT...

LIKE I SAID, TO DEFEAT CHEN GONG, ONLY ARROWS WILL WORK.

HOW TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS.

XIU!

RUNAN HAD A GREAT HARVEST THAT YEAR, THUS LU BU'S LAST BIT OF RATIONS ACTUALLY BELONGED TO CAO CAO.

PUYANG'S NORTH GATE, CAO ARMY'S LAST STATIONING POINT -

PENG

I DOUBT FIVE THOUSAND WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE! THOSE GUYS SEEM LIKE THEY'RE GETTING STRONGER...

FIVE HUNDRED MORE MEN FOR THE GENERAL UP FRONT. IF HE STILL CAN'T TAKE THEM DOWN, I WANT HIS HEAD.

KILL

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CHAPTER 122 WHAT IF THERE'S MORE

HAN HAO, CHANGE SHIFT.

AS AGREED, IT'S TIME FOR YOU GUYS TO REST.

GENERAL YU, BUT YOUR MEN...

KEEP TO THE RULES AND MORALE CAN BE STABLIZED EVEN IN A LOSING SITUATION.

IF THE COMMANDER IS AS VALIANT AS HAN HAO, HAVING ONLY A SMALL FORCE IS NO CONCERN!

TU!

FIFTY MEN TO THE LEFT, THIRTY MEN TO THE RIGHT!

EVERY-ONE ELSE TO THE BACK!

HOLD THE LINE! OUR REINFORCE-MENT WILL COME SOON!

A DECISION-MAKER WOULD ALWAYS THINK ABOUT HOW TO WIN, NO MATTER HOW SIZABLE THE ENEMY FORCE IS.

WHAT REINFORCE-MENT...?

PA~

GENERAL XU, YOUR... YOUR OLD WOUNDS ARE OPENING.

OLD WOUNDS, NOT, EXCUSE, FOR DEFEAT!

IF, I GROAN, MY WEALTH, ALL YOURS!

EVEN WITH THE LAST BREATH, A VALIANT FIGHTER...

PA~

WHAT IS THE MEANING BEHIND THIS MOVING IMAGERY?

WILL NOT SPEAK OF DEFEAT!

PA~

FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING, THOUGH THE BREEZE OF SPRING IS WEAK.

SAD, BUT STUN-NING...

IT IS THE AESTHETICS OF THE SHAMELESS BATTLEFIELD; PURE, SAD, BUT STUNNING.

LIKE THE ENEMY?

FRO... FROM THE BACK? IM... IMPOSSIBLE.

THIS FAR... WHO IS IT...

EVERYONE IS WORTH THEIR SALT, EXCEPT THE ARMY PROTECTOR IS SLACKING OFF.

IF THIS IS... A PLOY...

IF....

IF CAO CAO IS ABLE TO ESCAPE...

REPORT! WE LOST MANY MEN IN THE BACK. IT SEEMS THERE ARE MORE ENEMY FORCES LURKING IN THE CITY.

HE WILL GO TO YUAN SHAO. HOWEVER... THE LIKES OF YUAN SHAO...

BUT IF OUR ARMY HAS SEEN SUCH A SIZABLE FORCE, WHY DIDN'T ANYONE REPORT IT?

PUYANG IS A BIG CITY, I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.

SO THERE ARE MORE AMBUSHES BESIDES THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS?

HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD!

CAO CAO'S ALREADY GONE, BUT IF HE SEEKS HELP FROM YUAN SHAO,

IT'S ALRIGHT, STOP DIGGING.

REPORT!

RUNAN'S YELLOW TURBANS SHOULD'VE ARRIVED BY NOW.

THE RATIONS OFFICER SHOULD BE REPORTING TOO.

THE YE... YELLOW TURBANS DEFECTED!

ADVISOR CHEN GONG IS BEING BESIEGED, THE SITUATION IS DIRE!

BUT... BUT WE STILL HAVE REINFO-RCEMENT IN CHENLIU!

AND XUN YU'S ARMY ON THE OUTSKIRTS ARE ATTACKING MANY OF OUR CAMPS!

REPORT! YELLOW TURBAN'S DIVISION FORCE DEFEATED OUR ARMY NEAR CHANGYI!

REPORT! ENEMY FORCES SHOWED UP AT THE NORTH GATE!

REPORT! LI DIAN'S ARMY SET AN AMBUSH ON THE WAY, AND GENERAL ZHANG MIAO'S FORCE WAS BLOCKED!

AND THEIR NUMBERS KEEP INCREASING! THEIR LEADER IS XIAHOU DUN!

IMPOSSIBLE... ZANG BA IS OUTSIDE, GAO SHUN IS INSIDE, HOW...

LURING THE TIGER OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN? THEN... THERE MUST BE CAO'S FORCES ON THE WEST SIDE?

MY LORD! GAO SHUN AND ZANG BA WENT OUT TO PURSUE XIAHOU YUAN'S TROOP!

TIME PASSED AND THE SITUATION CHANGED, NOW WE ARE SURROUNDED, BUT IN THE SOUTH THERE'S STILL...

MY LORD, DO YOU MEAN YUE JIN?

OH NO! OUR FORCES HERE ARE MOSTLY SCATTERED TO DEAL WITH THE VARIOUS ENEMY DIVISIONS...

REPORT! ENEMY FORCES SHOWED UP IN THE SOUTH; THEY'RE PUTTING OUT THE FIRE AND HEADING THIS WAY!

MY LORD! WHAT SHALL WE DO? PLEASE GIVE YOUR ORDERS!

WAIT ...

THERE IS A ROUTE CONNECTING THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH GATE, AND OUR BACKING...

ANY NEWS ABOUT THE TIANS?

CHA~

FIF-TEEN.

PENG~

FOURTEEN FOR YOU ALL...

ONE FOR *LU BU.*

WHAT ELSE?

WHAT ELSE?

SOUTH GATE

AND THAT FOOL EVEN LET ME HANDLE THE BACKING SUPPORT.

WHAT ELSE?

TALENTS SHOULD BE USED, BUT IS LORD CAO REALLY THAT TRUSTING OF PEOPLE?

THAT WAS XUN YU'S IDEA, AND I HAD NO OBJECTION.

IF LORD CAO HAS GIVEN US THE PROTECTION ASSIGNMENT, WHY HIRE THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS?

WARS CAN BE TEDIOUS, AND I ALWAYS LIKE PLEASANT SURPRISES.

AND ALSO, I WANT TO MAKE A DECLAR-ATION...

OR IS IT THAT... LORD CAO HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND?

AS AN EFFECTIVE ALLY, MISTER TIAN IS NOW AN HONORED GUEST.

THANK YOU, MY LORD!

WHAT IF

THERE'S MORE..

THIS TRAINING TACTIC EVEN FORCED XUN YU TO DELAY HIS RETIRE-MENT.

CAO CAO WILL WIN FOR SURE? NO WONDER YOUNG MASTER AGREED ...

BALANCE? YOU MEAN... A HUMILIATING WIN IS JUST TO SHOW YUAN SHAO THAT CAO CAO ISNT A THREAT?

LU BU'S LOSS OR CAO CAO'S WIN, BOTH ASPECTS NEED TO BE WELL BALANCED.

BUT WHY DOES CAO CAO NEED TO RUN AROUND LIKE A HOMELESS DOG? IF WORD GETS OUT, IT'S REALLY...

PENG~

LISTEN, CAO CAO WON'T DIE; EVEN IF WE DON'T SAVE HIM, THE TIAN CLAN WILL...

HE WANTS WORD TO GET OUT.

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CHAPTER 123 THE PRICE OF LOYALTY

SHIT, WE FELL FOR IT!

SERVANTS OF THE TIAN CLAN? CO... COULD IT BE...

CORR-ECT.

SOU~

FIVE STEPS,

TEN MORE GENER-ALS.

BIG DEAL! HE'S ONE AGAINST US MANY, LET'S GET HIM TOGETHER!

MY LORD TELLS ME TO KILL LU BU. YES, UNDER-STOOD.

WHO GOES FIRST? WHO GOES FIRST?

喰 CHA~

OUR LORD IS WOUNDED, WHY CAN'T THE LOT OF YOU_

PER DEATH ...

DIAN WEI, THEY'RE ALL LU BU.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'VE HEARD THAT THERE'RE MANY, MANY LU BU.

RECORD KEEPERS PLEASE NOTE: CAO CAO'S SUBORDINATES FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY AGAINST ALL ODDS.

ALSO NOTE DOWN THE NAMES OF COWARDS WITHIN OUR ARMY.

THERE'S ONE IN FRONT OF THE HALBERD.

嗷
CHA~

WHY... DOES MY ARMY HAVE MEN LIKE THIS?

DIAN WEI, THE ONE IN MY HAND IS ALSO LU BU.

NO... NO! MY LORD!

啊
AH~

I AM MAKING A COMPARISON.

IT IS DEPENDENCE.

OR IS IT THAT MY MEN ARE ONLY AFTER THE WEALTH?

WAH~

DIAN WEI, THIS ONE IS ALSO LU...

MY LORD, PLEASE TELL ME!

WHERE? WHERE'S LU BU?

IF A COUNTRY IS SUPP-ORTED BY THESE MEN,

WILL ITS FUTURE TURN OUT TO BE THE SAME?

WILL I BE DEPEN-DING ON... THESE MEN?

MY HEAD FEELS TIRED...

...WILL IT BE THE SAME?

CHA~

CAN YOU... ANSWER ME?

WITH
...
WITH
WHAT?

WITH
DEATH.

I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER YET...

GIVE HIM A RESPE-CTABLE BURIAL.

CHAOS

YOU ARE U...

BU!

I... REMEM-BERED..

BUT I'M STILL THINKING...

KA!

!

KA!

!

WAH
PAH

HU... HURRY, GO!

I AM AN ASSA-SSIN!

ASSASSINS' PRINCIPLE IS TO SACRIFICE ONESELF...

AND
KILL~

JAH~
JAH~
GAH~
WAH~
I'M STILL THINKING

KILL LU BU. YES... UNDER-STOOD

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

DAWN MEET

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE TO YOUR LIFE?

...LIFE?

WHAT DO YOU LIVE FOR?

LOYALTY.

WHAT!?

PENG~

WHAT IS THAT?

HOW SHALLOW,

HOW UNPLEASANT AN ANSWER.

BUT IT'S VERY...

BLATANT!

DIAN WEI...

LU BU IS...

WATCHING LOYALTY BEING PLAYED OUT DIFFERENTLY ...

SEEING THE CONTRADICTION IN MY HERO PHILOSOPHY.

IGNORANT PEOPLE ARE STILL IGNORANT; THE LIVING ARE LIKE ANTS; THE DEAD ARE LIKE DUSTS.

I WANT TO CRY, BUT LAUGH AS WELL.

PITIFUL AND LAUGHABLE.

BEING ALIVE...

IS IT BECAUSE OF THE PAIN OF MY WOUNDS; OR THE JOY OF A SUDDEN CLARITY?

MORTALS OF THESE LANDS LIVED THIS WAY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

NO, THAT'S THE EMPTINESS WE MUST ENDURE IN THIS DAY AND AGE.

LIVING UNDER A MASTER, LIKE MEN. BUT NOT QUITE; AS SLAVES, BUT MORE LIKE ANIMALS.

SOMETIMES THERE ARE ANIMALS THAT WANT TO STAND UP TOO...

OR IS IT, JUST ME, WHO DOESN'T GET THE RULES OF THE GAME?

BUT HISTORY JUST WON'T ALLOW IT.

AM I... JUST A WILD BEAST?

NOT YET AT THE HUMAN LEVEL.

NOT HUMAN!

NOW... I SEEM TO UNDERSTAND LOYALTY...

LAO DA!

BUT IT'S LAUGHABLE, AND IT'S ADMIRABLE.

LAO DA!

IT IS WHAT BRINGS STRUCTURE AND ORDER TO THIS SCREWED UP WORLD.

I MAY NOT AGREE WITH IT...

I'M
GLAD
...

YOU ALL STILL
REMEMBER ME...

THE FORMER LEADER

REPORT! LI DIAN'S TROOP IS SUPPLYING THE MILITARY RATIONS SOUTHWARD!

REPORT! XIAHOU YUAN'S TROOP IS BACK AGAIN!

SIR, HURRY! THIS IS GENERAL ZHANG LIAO'S ORDER!

GENERAL, PLEASE RETREAT AND JOIN UP WITH ADVISOR CHEN GONG'S REMAINING FORCES!

SO CHEN GONG REALLY LOST...

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CHAPTER 124 CRIPPLED SOLDIERS. DEFEATED OFFICERS

THEN, MY LORD IS IN TROUBLE.

EVEN CHENLIU IS GONE.

PUYANG IS GONE,

ONE IS IN HIDING...

ONLY TWO FOOLS REMAIN.

THE OTHER IS STILL FIGHTING TO HAVE HIS NAME IN THE RECORD BOOK.

THE AMBUSHERS CANNOT LOSE!

A RESPEC-TABLE MAN.

HE STILL WANTS TO FIGHT?

WORTHY OF RESPECT.

AND SYMP-ATHY!

CAO CAO RECEIVED OVER TEN LETTERS OF SURRENDER FROM YANZHOU OFFICIALS BY NOON

MOST OF CHEN GONG'S TROOP WAS DESTROYED AROUND DUSK. BY THE NEXT MORNING, CHENLIU'S DEFENSE WAS BROKEN, AND THE GRAND ADMINISTRATOR ZHANG MIAO ESCAPED TO YUAN SHU'S SIDE.

LU BU LOST HIS MILITARY FOOTHOLD,

WHILE CAO CAO'S INFLUENCE SILENTLY DOUBLED.

PUYANG

THE YELLOW TURBAN ARMY?

THEN, RUNAN REGION IS OURS TOO.

I UNDER-STAND, IT'S A GOOD EXPER-IENCE.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT THIS IS ALL...

THAT DAY,

CAO CAO RETURNED TO THE TOP OF THE WATCH TOWER, AND SAID:

THOUGH THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THESE LOYAL SUBORDINATES WANT TO SAY TO HIM.

MY MEN HAVE PROVED THE SAYING,

ABLE-BODIED AND ABLE-MINDED.

SON OF A BITCH.

DON'T MIND IT TOO MUCH.

I MADE A COPY OF THE MAP OF THE SECRET PASSAGEWAYS WHEN I WAS STILL WORKING FOR THE OLD MASTER.

USED TO, BUT NOT ANYMORE!

RIGHT NOW WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE ...

SO, WHAT'S YOUR GOAL?

IF *"HANDICAPPED WARRIORS"* CAN RESCUE CAO CAO,

REPORT! WE'VE RETRIEVED DIAN WEI; HE'S STILL ALIVE.

USED TO, BUT NOT ANYMORE.

HE... WORKS FOR YOU?

WHY CAN'T THE "DEFEATED OFFICERS"?

HAND HIM OVER.

IT IS THE STUPIDITY OF YOU GUYS THAT EXPOSED EVERYTHING.

HUO, LAO DA'S RIGHT, LET'S NOT MAKE ANY MORE SCENES.

I ADVISE YOU TO STOP PUSHING THE SIMA CLAN INTO HOT WATERS.

I NEVER TOLD MASTER TIAN ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HANDICAPPED WARRIORS AND THE SIMA CLAN.

THEN CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON YOUR DAY OF GLORY, LAO DA.

SMART BIRDS WOULD CHOOSE THE TREE THEY REST ON,

LAO DA, I THOUGHT MASTER TREATED YOU WELL!

I WAS HOPING YOU, AS MY SUCCESSOR, COULD BE LIKE ME.

A TOTAL MESS.

THE SIMA CLAN IS BIG, BUT THEY'RE TOO CONSERVATIVE IN THEIR GOALS OF LIFE, SO THEY'RE STILL...

I JUST WANT TO SAY, YOU LEFT AT A BAD TIME.

SO IS THIS HIM?

BUT NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO SHOW UP.

IF YOU WANT A FIGHT, I CAN GIVE YOU ONE.

IT'S HIM ALRIGHT.

THIS NEW ASSIGN-MENT.

IF THE SIMA CLAN WOULD SERVE LORD CAO, THEY WOULD SURELY ACCEPT...

YOU... YOU'RE SUN SHU!?

CRIPPLED AND WITHOUT A WAY OUT; SOLDIERS FACE A ROUT LIKE FACING A LANDSLIDE.

DEFEATED BUT ALIVE, SOON BE AS RICH AS MOUNTAINS.

MISTER TIAN, YOUR SECOND VERSE IS INCOHERENT BULLSHIT, BUT STILL DEAD ON.

THE SIMA CLAN HAS THE STRONGEST PIKE; BUT THE TIAN CLAN HAS THE STRONGEST SHIELD! HOWEVER... I DIDN'T COME UP WITH THIS SECOND VERSE.

THEN ... WHAT ABOUT MY LEADER ...

WITNESSING IT FIRSTHAND, THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS ARE TRULY A SHARP BUNCH.

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEIR STRENGTH?

COMBINING THE TWO FORCES, IS LORD CAO THINKING OF ASSASS-INATING YUAN SHAO?

CONCEALMENT IS AN OFFENSE, BUT IT'S FORGIVABLE. I HOPE HE WILL MAKE UP FOR IT LATER.

I WANT HIS FORCE TO BE CUT IN HALF, AND LET THIS BE THE PRICE FOR CONCEAL-MENT.

YUAN SHAO IS FROM A BIG CLAN; HIS DEATH WON'T KILL THEM ALL.

LAO DA.

I ACCEPT THIS PUNISH-MENT.

SO YOU MEAN ... USE THE DIMIN-UTION TACTIC?

SO WHAT WOULD BE THE REWARD WHEN IT'S DONE?

SO IT'S YOU.

PLEASE LEAVE IT ALL TO THE *DEFEATED OFFICERS.*

LITTLE ADVISOR'S CONDUCTS - LIKE WANG JIAN OF QIN - MAKE ONE FEEL AT EASE.

DON'T... DON'T ACT SO GREEDY!

UNCLE TIAN DARES NOT TO SAY IT, BUT I'M NOT AFRAID.

"SOON BE AS RICH AS MOUNTAINS." HAHAHAHA! I REALLY FELL FOR THAT ONE.

I WANT TO TAKE OVER THAT SI.MA.CLAN.

YEARS LATER AT THE BATTLE OF GUANDU, CAO CAO OBTAINED ONE OF THE HISTORICALLY INCONCEIVABLE WINS (USING THE MUCH SMALLER FORCE AGAINST A SIZABLE ENEMY FORCE).

AT THE TIME, XIAHOU DUN MADE GREAT STRIDES DURING SURPRISE ATTACKS; XIAHOU YUAN WAS THE COMPETENT OVERSEER; CAO HONG REMAINED CALM DURING THE CHAOS; CAO REN HELD ON TO THE REAR FORCE, KEEPING THE MORALE STABLE; YUE JIN SET AMBUSH IN WUCHAO, ATTACKED LIYANG, AND TOOK NANPI; LI DIAN MAINTAINED A STEADY SUPPLY LINE; XU CHU, HAN HAO AND THE LIKES ALWAYS PUT THEMSELVES AHEAD OF THE SOLDIERS, THUS SERVED AS EXAMPLES FOR THE REST. EACH GENERAL GAVE THEIR ALL, AND THEY SOLIDIFIED THE FOUNDATION FOR CAO CAO'S EMPIRE.

HENEI. HOUSE OF SIMA

AY... ANOTHER LOYALIST CLAN HAS DISSOLVED.

HASN'T IT BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE SUN JIAN'S DEATH?

YOUNG MASTER PROBABLY MEANS... MANY INVESTORS HAVE LOST, RIGHT?

RIGHT, AT A RAVA-GING TIME LIKE THIS...

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CHAPTER 125 THE MEANING OF CONTINUATION

A BUSINESSMAN REALLY MUST BE PRUDENT.

DON'T FORGET THAT TIAN GUY.

HELPING CAO CAO SURE IS A GOOD INVESTMENT.

PEOPLE ARE FORGETFUL. WHO WOULD REMEMBER THE MISDEEDS THEIR BENEVOLENT LORD DID BEFORE?

RIGHT NOW, THOSE WHO VALUE MONEY AND THOSE WHO VALUE LOYALTY ARE THE SAME.

IT'S ALL DECIDED BY FATE.

LAO DA'S *INVESTMENT* IS GOOD TOO.

WHY DOES YOUNG MASTER EVEN SPEAK OF A MAN WHO VALUES MONEY OVER LOYALTY?

BUT I SAY, WHERE IS JUST-ICE?

SOME SAY HEAVEN IS DEAD, AND SOME SAY ONE CANNOT OPPOSE THE WILL OF HEAVEN.

VERY DEEP ...

HELL, WHY THAT LOOK...

BUT MY VIEW HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY SIMPLE.

IT CAN BE VERY DEEP, OR VERY SHALLOW,

WH... WHAT?

CONTINU-ATION.

THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO DO IN LIFE.

WH... WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH NOW, EVER THOUGHT ABOUT CONTINUATION?

SHE LOOKS NICE, SO SHOULD BE A GOOD INVEST-MENT...

YOU, YOU WANT ME TO...!

THIS SIDE IS GET-TING HEAVIER.

YOU... REALLY AREN'T HIS...

SISTER MENG'S LIFELONG HAPPINESS IS AT STAKE; ADVISOR, THINK OF SOMETHING!

THE BLOND-HAIR-GREEN-EYES IS MAKING A MOVE, SISTER MENG IS LOSING.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

ENOUGH! DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A FOOL!

I TOLD YOU ALREADY, I'M NOT A WOMAN.

GREAT! HE ALREADY HAS TWO SONS!

NO, THERE'RE A FEW MORE.

MO... MORE!

MS. SUN...

WH... WHAT?

MOMMY! DON'T HIDE IT ANYMORE!

SO WHAT IF THE WEDDING DIDN'T TAKE PLACE, DADDY STILL LOVES YOU!

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

BUT... DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR HAPPI-NESS!

.....

MOMMY, DON'T GIVE UP! AT LEAST THINK OF THE ONE IN YOUR BELLY!

REVENGE IS IMPOR-TANT,

AH! WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

YOU MEAN...

DON'T WORRY, THESE THINGS HAPPEN EVERY-DAY.

I... I DIDN'T DO THIS.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, MS. SUN, WE HAVE OUR PRINCIPLES...

THE SIMA CLAN HASN'T MADE A DECISION?

I KNOW, IT'S ABOUT PROFIT.

I CAN PROMISE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT.

THE SIMA CLAN WANTS TO HAVE SOME LEVERAGE IN THE EASTERN REGIONS...

BUT AS FOR THE ISSUE OF CRED-IBILITY ...

I HOPE MS. SUN WILL AGREE TO ONE CONDITION.

THIS IS...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OTHER AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAO DA AND YOU...

BUT, SAFETY IS A CONCERN.

THE ADVISOR FOR THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS.

MS. SUN,

OUR CLAN WILL HAVE TO KEEP YOU.

THEY'LL DEFINITELY ACCEPT.

THE SIMA CLAN WILL DEFINITELY BE INTERESTED IN THIS.

YOU MEAN, GIVE THEM THE SUN DAUGHTER?

WHEN THAT DAY COMES, LORD CAO CAN USE THE OLD INDICTMENT AGAINST THEM...

AND ALLOW US TO SWALLOW EVERYTHING THEY HAVE.

FIRST, THEY CAN'T REFUSE LORD CAO; SECOND, THE WARTORN EASTERN REGION IS IN NEED OF MATERIALS, SO IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY.

THE SIMA CLAN KNOWS HOW TO DO BUSINESS, I THINK... THEY WILL SOON TURN THE EASTERN REGION INTO A PROSPEROUS PLACE.

WE'RE JUST LIKE THE SIMA CLAN.

SPEA-KING OF WHICH,

DON'T WORRY, THAT MESSED UP CLAN OF MISERS CANNOT COMPARE TO MILADY'S TALENTS...

OUR LORD ALWAYS GLADLY USES TALENTS AND RICHES. YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL.

NIECE, WASN'T WANG JIAN FAVORED BY THE FIRST EMPEROR, EVEN WHILE HE GREW EVER MORE GREEDIER?

BUT WHY SHOULD I FEAR MY PREY?

THE SIMA CLAN IS ALREADY UPON MY LIPS.

TRAITOR

OUTSIDE OF SHOUCHUN CITY

THREE YEARS AGO, MY FATHER DIED AT THE HANDS OF A TRAITOR.

WHERE WAS JUSTICE?

TWO YEARS AGO, MY CLAN'S INFLUENCE DECLINED.

WHERE WAS PRINC-IPLE?

I EVEN HAVE TO SACRIFICE MY SISTER'S HAPPINESS.

LAST YEAR, MY CLAN KEPT GETTING EATEN UP BY VARIOUS LORDS.

TODAY I SUBMIT TO YUAN SHU, FOR I MUST REBUILD MY CLAN.

I DRIFT BETWEEN SELF-INTEREST AND RIGHT-EOUSNESS; HEAVEN, WHY'RE YOU SILENT?

WHERE WAS RIGHTEOU-SNESS?

OR IS IT THAT ...

PENG~

YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD?

HEAVEN IS NOT DEAD,

HEAVEN IS JUST TRAINING A MAGNIFICENT CLAN.

OATH-BROTHER, THIS IS THE MEANING OF CONTINUATION!

AROUND YEAR 195 AD,
SUN CE ENTERED THE
SOUTHERN SCENE TO
SERVE YUAN SHU.

王霸之氣

第十六期 參見！

【下期預告】

江東有虎初長成

火鳳燎原

第十五集

作者／陳某

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